

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## *Festive 1800s Holiday in the Park Celebration*

### **Candlelight Tours in Old Town San Diego**

Experience the history of early San Diego with Candlelight Tours on December 12 & 13 at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, adorned with holiday decorations, lantern-lit museums, hundreds of luminarias, holiday entertainment, festive music, and townsfolk in period clothing. Beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday, and 7:30pm on Saturday, candlelit walking tours will be conducted approximately every 20 minutes.

Visitors can experience vignettes throughout the park, including Hanukkah & Jewish traditions at the Robinson-Rose House, an Irish Christmas in the historic La Casa de Machado y Silvas Commercial Restaurant, an 1850s American soldiers encampment, 'The Night before Christmas' story at the Union Printing Shop, arrival of holiday presents at the Seeley Stagecoach Stop, crafting ornaments and decorations by a Blacksmith, and a traditional Mexican Christmas in the lantern-lit furnished rooms of the 1830's La Casa de Estudillo. The tours end with refreshments and entertainment in a welcoming party atmosphere around a bonfire.

Proceeds benefit the interpretive and educational efforts of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, through the generosity and efforts of the Boosters of Old Town non-profit association. Reservations are suggested. Tour prices are \$10 for adults, \$3 for children between the ages of 6 and 12, and ages 5 and under are free.

The Candlelight Tours are part of Fiesta Navidad, a two day evening community celebration, presented by the Historic Old Town Community Foundation, that shares the spirit and traditions that are unique to early San Diego.

In addition to holiday entertainment, **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park**, just minutes from downtown and an option to the busy malls, offers a number of high quality gifts at reasonable prices in a quaint historic setting. Shoppers are offered a glimpse into yesteryear, where life moves more slowly in this part of town, and where the holiday hustle and bustle is balanced with history and fiestas. The Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Merchants Open House is Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> and features extended shopping hours and free refreshments.

Parking and entrance to the park are FREE, and is conveniently located adjacent to the Old Town Transit Center, with Coaster, Trolley, and MTS Bus service.

For additional state park event information, phone 619-220-5422, or click on [www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego](http://www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego)

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